

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: GOC REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT

REFS: (A) NDJAMENA 1338 (B) NDJAMENA 1318 (C) NDJAMENA 1303

1. DEPARTMENT AND AID SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD SHORT-
AGES REPORTED REFTELS AND PARTICULARLY SITUATION IN BARDAI.

2. SUGGESTION PER REF (C) TO USE LOCALLY BASED DC-4 TO SUP-
PLY AFFECTED BARDAI AREA WOULD SEEM MOST PRACTICAL APPROACH

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TO PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS TWO DC-4 FLIGHTS

(CARRYING 4.5 MT PER TRIP) EACH WEEK SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT EMERGENCY FOOD NEEDS OF 1,000 AFFECTED INHABITANTS IN BARDAI AREA. USG WISHES TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE WITHIN A MULTI-DONOR FRAMEWORK IN HELPING GOC MEET REPORTED FOOD CRISIS. ONCE SATISFIED THAT SITUATION IN BARDAI IS AS REPORTED BY GOC, EMBASSY/CDO AUTHORIZED TO OFFER DONATION OF DOLLARS 15,000 TO ASSIST WITH FUEL COSTS ON BARDAI RUN. (DONATION WOULD TAKE FORM OF USG REIMBURSEMENT FOR AIRLIFT FUEL BILLS.) PREPARED TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FUNDING IF REQUIRED AFTER REVIEWING OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND GOC PERFORMANCE ON INITIAL PHASE OF BARDAI RELIEF OPERATION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO GOC ANTICIPATED FOOD PROBLEMS IN OTHER AREAS (PER PARA 2 REF (B)) REQUEST THAT EMBASSY/CDO URGE GOC TO INVITE A TEAM OF DONOR REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT FAYA LARGEAU, FADA, AND ZOUAR WITH GOC OFFICIALS TO ASSESS EXTENT OF REPORTED FOOD SHORTAGES IN NORTH. WHILE WE CONCUR THAT SECURITY RISK PRECLUDES AN INSPECTION VISIT TO BARDAI AREA, A MULTI-DONOR ASSESSMENT OF FOOD NEED SITUATION IN SELECTED AREAS OF NORTH WOULD SEEM A PREREQUISITE FOR ANY EXPANDED DONOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF 1974 AIRLIFT EXPERIENCE. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT UNDP RES REP SERVE ON DONOR ASSESSMENT TEAM, PREFERABLY AS COORDINATOR OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE ON DONOR SIDE.

4. ASSUME CURRENT FOOD STOCKS IN COUNTRY ARE SUFFICIENT MEET EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS SINCE REFTELS SUGGEST PROBLEM ONE OF FOOD TRANSPORT, NOT STOCK SUPPLY.

5. ADVISE.

DECONTROL: 6/2/76. INGERSOLL

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